

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 088418

EXDIS-MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 2043 ACTION SECSTATE 14 APR

QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 2043

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO

SUBJECT: PRIVATE MEETING ON FUTURE GREEK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO

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1. I MET THIS MORNING (APRIL 14) IN AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE'S OFFICE

WITH THE GREEK, BRITISH, FRG, AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS. THIS PRIVATE OCCASION HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY DESTAERCKE IN CONNECTION WITH THE EARLIER EFFORTS SEVERAL OF US HAD MADE TO ELICIT THROUGH HIM FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SOME EXPRESSION OF THE GOG VIEWS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATO.

2. THEODOROPOULOS STATED THAT AFTER GOG HAD MADE ITS FIRST BREAK FROM NATO IN MILITARY AFFAIRS IT HAD NOT BEEN IN A HURRY TO DEFINE ITS RELATIONSHIPS IN OTHER RESPECTS WITH NATO. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT PROSPECTS FOR A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WITH TURKEY ON CYPRUS AND OTHER OTHER AREAS HAVE WORSENERED. IN ADDITION, THE SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN IS CRITICAL. THE TURKS HAVE CHARGED THAT THE GREEKS ARE MILITARIZING CERTAIN OF THEIR ISLANDS FOR POSSIBLE ATTACK AGAINST TURKEY. MOREOVER, THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERED A WEAK ONE. THREE OF THE VICE PREMIERS UNDER DEMERIL ARE FANATICAL, TEMPESTUOUS CHARACTERS. PASSIONS ARE MOUTING IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. IN ATHENS, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE TURKS ARE BUILDING UP A NEW CRISIS IN THE AEGEAN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAVE NOT GONE WELL, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATIONS FAVORS RENEWAL OF AID TO TURKEY.

5. AS FOR SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN UNPOPULAR IN GREECE AND DO NOT FIT HIM FOR INTERVENTION AS A MEDIATOR.

6. DESPITE THIS GLOOMY OUTLOOK, THE GOG IS READY WITHIN THE COMING WEEKS TO GIVE AN OUTLINE OF HOW IT THINKS A RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED AND ESTABLISHED.

7. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT NEXT WEEK THE SIX OF US MEET AGAIN, AND HE WILL GIVE US A BROAD OUTLINE OF GREEK VIEWS FOR US TO TAKE UP WITH OUR MILITARY ADVISERS.

8. IF THEREAFTER THERE APPEARED A BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN NATO AND THE GOG, WE COULD LAY IT BEFORE A RESTRICTED
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MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WHICH MIGHT THEN AUTHORIZE THE DELEGATION OF ITEMS TO COMMITTEES FOR CONSIDERATION.

9. THE SIX OF US COULD CONSTITUTE A SORT OF STEERING COMMITTEE TO SIEVE PROBLEMS TO THE COUNCIL.

10. CATALANO SAID HE FAVORED THE ABOVE PROPOSAL.

11. PECK ASKED WHAT ARE WE TO DO ABOUT ERALP? WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN ERALP COMES TO A RESTRICTED MEETING? NO ANSWER TO THIS QUERY WAS FORTHCOMING.

12. KRAPF ENQUIRED WHAT WILL THE POSSIBLE NATUR OF THE OUTLINE BE? THE ANSWER FROM THEODOROPOULOS WAS IT WILL PROBABLY TRY TO STATE WHAT GREEK MILITARY FORCES MIGHT DO IN THE WAY OF COOPERATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS. THIS WOULD REQUIRE ADVICE FROM SACEUR AND OTHERS AS TO GREEK PARTICIPATION IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF JOINT CONCERN.

13. DESTAERCKE REMARKED THAT THE ACTIONS OF THIS GROUP OF SIX COULD ONLY BE EXPLORATORY AND INFORMAL. HE FELT THAT KASTL OR NATOTHER MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SHOULD BE PRESENT AT ANY FUTURE MEETINGS. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO THAT. THE DOYEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SIX OF US CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO CRYSTALIZE POLICY, AND REITERATED THE NECESSITY FOR OUR ROLE BEING EXPLORATORY.

14. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR ENDED BY SAYING THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD CONSIDER IT A DISASTER TO HAVE AN ARMED CONFLITCT WITH TURKEY, BUT IF A NATION FEELS IT HAS BEEN "PUT UP AGAINST A WALL", ONE CANNOT ANSWER FOR ITS CONSEQUENT REACTION.

15. COMMENT: WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO RETRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO SELECTED NATO CAPITALS.
BRUCE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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